

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTIA 05009 052056Z
ACTION SS-25

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S E C R E T SANTIAGO 05009

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FOR ARA, D, P AND L ONLY

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, PGOV, CI
SUBJECT: LETELIER/MOFFITT -- LEGAL ATTACHE QUESTIONING OF ITURRIAGA

1. LEGAL ATTACHE CALVIN CLEGG (WHO ARRIVED THE EVENING OF JULY 4) WAS PICKED-UP BY CNI AT 0800 JULY 5 AND TAKEN TO CNI HEADQUARTERS. AFTER TEN MINUTES CONVERSATION WITH COLONEL PANTOJA IN LATTER'S OFFICE, GENERAL MENA AND LIEUTENANT COLONEL RAUL ITURRIAGA JOINED THEM. MENA ASKED CLEGG IF HE HAD ANY OBJECTION TO PANTOJA AND HIMSELF REMAINING PRESENT DURING THE INTERVIEW; CLEGG SAID NO.

2. THE INTERVIEW LASTED SLIGHTLY OVER TWO HOURS, CLEGG ASKING ALL 11 QUESTIONS THAT HE HAD BROUGHT WITH HIM AS WELL AS OTHERS THAT HE IMPROVISED AS HE WENT ALONG. ACCORDING TO CLEGG, ITURRIAGA ANSWERED ALL QUESTIONS EXCEPT ONE WHICH RELATED TO WHO HAD FINAL AUTHORITY FOR AUTORIZING DINA FOREIGN MISSIONS AND ISSUING FALSE PASSPORTS. ITURRIAGA FIRST SAID THAT HE COULD NOT ANSWER THAT QUESTION, WHICH CLEGG UNDERSTOOD AS A REFUSAL. MENA THEN INTERPOSED TO SUGGEST THAT WHAT ITURRIAGA MEANT WAS THAT HE PERSONALLY DID NOT HAVE ANY KNOWLEDGE OF WHO HAD AUTHORITY AND WAS, THEREFORE,

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UNABLE TO ANSWER FOR THAT REASON.

3. IN GENERAL, ITURRIAGA TOOK THE LINE THAT HIS ONLY KNOWLEDGE OF AND ACQUAINTANCE WITH TOWNLEY WAS IN MATTERS RELATING TO ECONOMIC INTELLIGENCE AND THAT HE COULD NOT SPEAK FOR ANY OTHER ASPECTS OF TOWNLEY'S DINA INVOLVEMENT. HE LIMITED HIS ANSWERS ALMOST ENTIRELY TO WHAT HE HIMSELF DID AND WAS NOT WILLING TO

TALK ABOUT THE ROLES OF OTHERS. HIS ONLY REFERENCE TO CONTRERAS WAS TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT AT ONE POINT CONTRERAS WAS HIS DIRECT SUPERIOR.

4. THE OVERALL TONE OF THE QUESTIONING WAS FRIENDLY. MENA, PANTOJA AND ITURRIAGA WERE OBVIOUSLY EAGER TO SHOW COOPERATIVE ZEAL. IN 45 MINUTE CONVERSATION AFTERWARDS (MENA DEPARTING BEFORE THE END) THEY PLAYED THE THEME THAT THE GOC HAS NOW GIVEN ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF ITS WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE AND THAT IT IS TIME FOR THE USG TO COME THROUGH WITH THE INFORMATION IT HAS AGREED TO PROVIDE.

5. CLEGG IS RETURNING TO BUENOS AIRES AFTERNOON OF JULY 5 AND WILL SUBMIT REPORTS ON THE QUESTIONING OF ITURRIAGA FROM THERE.
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